

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS

Senator Stewart Sees the Shadow of a Monarchy, with Cleveland at Its Head.

The House Discusses the Inefficient Postal Service and Talks of Politics and the Admission of Some of the Territories.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—Mr. Stewart called up the joint resolution offered by him on the 14th inst., for a constitutional amendment reducing to a simple majority the vote necessary to override a presidential veto, and addressed the Senate on the subject. He referred to the large number of veto messages sent in by President Cleveland, and said that they rested solely upon the assumption that it was the duty of the President to nullify every law for which he would not have voted as a member of Congress—an assumption not only of superior wisdom and patriotism on his part, but of better opportunity to ascertain facts than the members of the two houses had. The form of government, he said, had changed from democratic simplicity to a one-man power, responsive only to the necessity of party and the influence of money. The people did not realize the growing power of the executive. The President has more than 100,000 offices at his disposal, and a member of Congress was not even allowed to give evidence as to the qualifications of an applicant for office. The President alone determined all questions relating to appointments, and he was either by himself or by a board called the Civil Service Commission, appointed by him and removable at his pleasure. The vast revenues of the government were practically in the hands of the administration as a private fund to augment the power of the executive. This result was reached partly by legislation and partly by forced construction. The legislation of Congress, no matter how secured or by whom devised, permitted the administration to loan the accumulated funds in the treasury to such national banks as it chose, while the executive, without interest or reward to the government, and this power had been liberally exercised by the administration in loaning over \$60,000,000 to such national banks as it chose in the eyes of the Secretary of the Treasury. Mr. Stewart referred, in the same connection, to the purchase of bonds at the enormous premium of over 27 per cent. "From persons known to the public, but presumably well known to the executive," to the discretion lodged with the executive, but not properly exercised, and these and other things which he said were admitted that the government thereby losing a vast amount of money, and that the result was that it was not a government, but a monarchy, under the rule of a single man, and that the various rules and discriminations of the Treasury Department, "whereby special privileges were granted, and special favors were created in the great city of New York and elsewhere at the expense of the people." But he only desired to show that the executive was exercising a discretionary power exercised by the executive to benefit his friends and destroy his enemies. As examples of this "extraordinary power" he referred to the letters of introduction given to California, to the raid of the Attorney-General on the Bell Telephone Company, and to the treaty-making power, which might be used to advance the ambitious projects of the executive, and which might be remedied or checked by legislation, and the liberties of the people might be guarded by law, if Congress had power to limit the executive. No one denied Mr. Cleveland's absolute ownership of the Democratic party. Before reaching Washington he had been elected to the Presidency by the members of the House to discard one of the precious metals, and in all things to do the bidding of Wall Street. The refusal of patriotic Democrats to acknowledge the result of the election, the golden bond-holding ring, challenged the admiration of the country. The House of Representatives had seemed to be an impenetrable fortress, but it was not so. It was a Wall Street; but it had fallen. With a wave of the hand of Grover Cleveland that body was paralyzed, so that it could not even utter the word "silver" while the Democratic State of New York was voting in favor of division, that at that rate the growing power of this "man of destiny" had but to continue unchecked by another term. Mr. Stewart said that Grover Cleveland had nothing but revolution could remove him. Never before in the history of the country had so vast powers and resources been entrusted by a confiding people. It remained to be seen whether the President would be able to fulfill the expectations of the Washington Post by flattening Napoleon and crowning himself, because he regarded all others unworthy to perform that service. The exercise of the great natural force with which the President was endowed was concentrating the whole power of the government in the executive, and if not restrained would ultimately lead to a monarchy. The people desired control, independence, and activity and will. These qualities were possessed in a high degree by Mr. Cleveland. While they were guarantees of personal success, they were dangerous to the liberty of the people. They were the qualities which always increased executive authority at the expense of the people. The selection by Mr. Cleveland of the money kings and the Wall Street aristocracy of Europe and America as his allies proved his sagacity, and showed his appreciation of the necessity for the use of money in accomplishing his Napoleonic schemes. He was not a man who did not arouse the people to action before it was too late, it would be the boldness and daring of this "man of destiny" dazzled and blinded them.

The presiding officer announced the appointment of the select committee to examine into all questions touching the meat product of the United States as follows: Messrs. Vest, Plumb, Manderson, Collum and Coke.

The conference report on the pension appropriation bill was presented and agreed to.

After an executive session the Senate adjourned.

The Postal Service and the Territories.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—A Senate bill was passed for the erection of a public building at Vicksburg, Miss., at the ultimate cost of \$100,000. A Senate bill was passed authorizing the construction of bridges across the Kentucky river and its tributaries by the Louisville, Cincinnati and Virginia railroad.

The House then went into committee of the whole—Mr. Turner, of Georgia, in the chair—on the postoffice appropriation bill.

On motion of Mr. Blount, of Georgia, the appropriation for mail-messenger service was increased from \$900,000 to \$950,000.

Mr. Perkins, of Kansas, in speaking to a verbal amendment, again entered the complaint of the people of the West against the inefficient mail service, which he asserted, was now being given to that section. He read from a letter which he had received from an ex-postal clerk in the seventh division testifying to the inefficiency of the service between Sedalia, Mo., and Denison, Tex. The complaint, he said, was not a mere complaint. The people, without distinction of party, were asking for a better service in the West. In proof of this he read extracts from newspapers of various politics, protesting against the administration of the Postoffice Department. He attributed a portion of the evil to the fact that inefficient men were appointed, and he instanced the case of a postmaster in Missouri, sent to Washington for postage-stamps, and who were sent to him in a great sheet. He had never seen them in that form before, and he thought the sheet was a circus poster. He pasted it on the wall, and calling his wife, said to her: "See what the damned fool in Washington sent me when I wrote him for stamps. He sent a circus poster, and the damned circus riders all look alike." [Laughter.]

Mr. Dockery, of Missouri—What is the name of the postmaster?

Mr. Perkins—I don't want to give away political secrets. I saw the story in the newspapers, and, of course, newspapers never tell anything that is true. [Laughter.]

Mr. Toole, of Missouri, and Mr. Voorhees, of Washington Territory, voiced the wishes of the people of the Territory for a more efficient mail service than they were now receiving.

Mr. Cannon, of Illinois, attributed the inefficiency of the service in the West, not to a lack of sufficient appropriation, but to the fact that competent men had been discharged and incompetent persons put in their places.

Mr. Blount said that the record would disclose the fact that the changes in the railway mail service had been gradual, and that to-day the rate of mail was higher than it had been before. He asserted that nearly one-half of the clerks in the railway mail service had been over from the Republican administration, and was nearly another man in the country

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AFFAIRS OF THE RAILWAYS.

Important Railway Deal.

Philadelphia, May 24.—The Evening Bulletin says: "One of the most important railroad purchases of recent years will soon be consummated, being so far from the transfer by the Baltimore and Ohio of the Schuylkill river East-side railroad to the control of a new syndicate, which will operate it in the interest of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and which will, at the same time, gain possession of the Philadelphia extension of the Baltimore and Ohio. The purchase will be made in the name of the Pennsylvania railroad, but the company is now being organized, and it is stated on unimpeachable authority that the money will be furnished by the Pennsylvania company and that it will practically own and control the route. This will be one of the most important, and the Pennsylvania will not only crush a possible through-trunk-line rival, but at the same time gain a big advantage over the Reading, which has been the freight facilities of the East-side, with branches to both rivers, are of exceedingly great value."

Personal, Local and State Notes.

Assistant General Passenger Agent Watkins, of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, was in the city yesterday.

The report of Receiver McNulta for April shows that the expenses of the Washburn road exceeded its receipts by \$77,000.

Indianapolis connections have been notified that the Chicago and Alton will put on vestibule trains between Chicago and Kansas City next week.

The Indianapolis car-works have been asked to bid on 1,000 box cars for the Northern Pacific. This company is also in the market for fifty additional locomotives.

On June 15 the South Illinois street ticket-office, at Ohio, Indiana and West, will be removed into one of the rooms in the Fair Block, fronting Jackson place.

The Vandana, on the days of the Terre Haute races next month, will run a special train from Indianapolis, leaving Indianapolis at 10:30 a. m., and returning, leave Terre Haute at 6:15 p. m.

E. P. Ripley, general freight agent of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy road, passed through Indianapolis, yesterday morning, en route to St. Louis, N. C., where he goes for the benefit of his health.

An effort is to be made to get the presidents and managers of the roads in the Ohio River Association together, had it possible bring about a restoration of passenger service between Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Louisville and Chicago.

Frank Terry, master mechanic of the T. M. & S. road, was in Fort Wayne, on Wednesday, for the purpose of leasing some idle engines from the Western Michigan road, and an engineer on the Grand Rapids and Indiana road.

The Chicago and